

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2004. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23-33 are presented for examination. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into Claims 1 and 12, respectively; this action is taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 12, and 23-27 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claims 9 and 20 have been amended to ensure proper claim dependency. Claims 28-33 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 12, and 23-27 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 8-10 and 19-21 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope.<sup>1</sup> Claim 1, the base claim of Claim 8, has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable Claim 8. Similarly, Claim 12, the base claim of Claim 19, has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable Claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance. Independent Claim 23 is a computer-readable storage medium claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and has been similarly amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 23 is also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 17, 18, and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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<sup>1</sup>/It is noted that the Office Action Summary states that these claims are rejected, apparently erroneously.

§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,762 (*Shafer et al.*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,330,574 (*Murashita*).

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that the independent claims, Claims 1, 12, and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 24-27 have been amended to include the feature of regarding the document elements as the same document element type, and executing a predetermined process on the document elements being regarded as the same document element type, which is the common feature of former Claims 8 and 19 and Claims 9, 10, 20, and 21, which were identified as reciting allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

As discussed previously in the Amendment dated January 5, 2004, *Shafer et al.* relates to a method for generating a grammar for a collection of sample document records and to a process for reducing the number of rules of such grammars. *Shafer et al.* merely matches a “start tag” with the corresponding “end tag”, as described on column 3, lines 14-29.

*Murashita* relates to a technique for compressing and decompressing data. *Murashita* discusses examining tag elements in a structured document to distinguish the structures of the respective tags.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in *Shafer et al.* and *Murashita*, whether considered separately, or in any permissible combination, that would teach or suggest the feature of regarding the document elements as the same document element type, and executing a predetermined process on the document elements being regarded as the same document element type, as recited in Claims 24-27.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that Claims 24-27 are

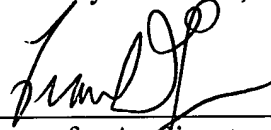
clearly patentable over the cited prior art, and are also in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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